Sl. No.	Circles	Total No. of Revenue villages	Villages covered by BSNL	Villages covered by Private Operators	Total villages covered
6.	Gujarat	18125	11214	4114	15328
7.	Haryana	6850	6811		6811
8.	Himachal Pradesh	16925	16587		16587
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6764	4715		4715
10.	Karnataka	27066	27066		27066
11.	Kerala	1468	1468		1468
12.	Madhya Pradesh	51806	37601	611	38212
13.	Chhattisgarh	19720	14665		14665
14.	Maharashtra	42467	31541	2643	34184
15.	North East I	7125	3456	—	3456
16.	North East II	7020	2586		2586
17.	Orissa	46989	40547		40547
18.	Punjab	12687	12687	879*	12687
19.	Rajasthan	39483	23858	3010	26868
20.	Tamil Nadu	17899	17899		17899
21.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	79792	75997		75997
22.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	23604	21268		21268
23.	Uttaranchal	15610	11650		11650
24.	West Bengal	38337	37306		37306
25.	Kolkata	437	437		437
26.	Delhi	191	191		191
	TOTAL:	607491	506028	11786	517814

*879 MARR replaced by Private operator.

WLL Technology in rural and semi-urban areas

950. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to answer to

Unstarred Question 1187 given in Rajya Sabha on 31st July, 2003 and state:

(a) whether Government have formulated strategy to introduce WLL technology in rural and semi-urban areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Government has adopted technology neutral policy. There is no restriction on any of Basic Service Operators/ Unified Access Services Operators to provide connections with the specific technology. However, WLL technology leads to faster roll-out of network including in rural and semi-urban areas of the country.

Telephone exchanges in Uttaranchal

951. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges operating in Uttaranchal at present, district-wise; and

(b) the number of new telephone exchanges likely to be set up during the current financial year in the State, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The number of telephone exchanges operating in Uttaranchal is 431 at present, district-wise, details thereof are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) The number of new telephone exchanges likely to be set up during the current financial year in the State is 22 district-wise details thereof are given in the Statement-II.